



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the September 25, 2017, business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board member absent: Mark Siderius, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM).

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017, 310-meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: The Draft Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines are now available for review. These guidelines will be utilized in the event of a mussel detection in the state and Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is seeking input. Comments due September 22nd to Thomas Woolf, Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief, Montana FWP, 406-444-1230 <http://musselresponse.mt.gov/>
2. Email: Cascade CD is sponsoring a 2017 Supervisor Summit, October 31 – November 1, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. Registration due October 20th. Contact Cascade CD 406-727-3603, Ext. 125. www.cascadecd.com
3. Email: Department of Natural Resource (DNRC) 2016 Supervisor Natural Resource Concerns survey results. Note: full survey - 30 pgs.
4. Email: DNRC Range Improvement Loan Program. Due to Montana's drought and fires this summer, the rate has been reduced to 1.5%. Low-interest loans to Montana's farmers and ranchers for rangeland improvements and Development, and an incentive for private landowners to undertake range improvement practices. Contact Bill Herbolich, DNRC, 406-444-6668
http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/consdist/range_improvements.asp
5. Email: Due to the feedback the Montana Association of Conservation Districts



(MACD) Board has received from districts, and because the membership will be voting on bylaws at the Convention, the MACD Board has voted to allow all districts, regardless of dues payment status, to vote on Association business at the Area Meetings and at the Convention. Contact Elena Evans, MACD, 406-443-5711.

6. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDM) September 14, 2017 issue of The Montana Conservationist. <http://swcdm.org>
7. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, September 21, 2017, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers, 418 E. Second Street, Whitefish. <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org>
8. Email: DNRC Rangeland Improvement Program. Contact Stacy Barta, DNRC, 406-444-6619, sbarta@mt.gov or Bill Herbolich, DNRC, 406-444-6668.

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$264.79
2. Insty Prints of Kalispell \$77.07
3. Mountain States Leasing \$3091.12
4. RESPEC \$1087.50
5. VISA \$94.76
6. USGS \$1700.00
7. Montana Sky Networks \$20.00
8. Anders Business Solutions \$80.00

John Ellis made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

310

GNUDSEN, FL2017047C, O’Neil Creek, complaint: Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to send the standard complaint letter to the landowner.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STALOWY, FL2016050, Bear Creek, permit modification request: No action as no further information has been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

DEQ 319-GRANT PANEL PRESENTATION: Valerie Kurth reported the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 grant application for work on Cow Creek has been submitted. Panel presentations are to be made October 12th in Helena. Discussion held.



Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve travel for the Cow Creek working group for the DEQ 319 grant panel presentation.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT: Valerie Kurth presented options and costs for replacement of conference room chairs. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve Valerie Kurth/staff to choose 12 replacement chairs from what was presented or another as they see fit.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: The August End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the August End of Month report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

FCD STAFF: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. September advertisements: Seedlings and Community of Resource Educators (CORE) Trunk Workshop
2. Valerie submitted the partial dues letter to MACD.
3. Valerie submitted the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program planning grant application for Trumbull Creek.
4. Valerie coordinated the technical review for the permit modification request on Bear Creek.
5. Cynthia attended the Lake County Foust Farms cover crop and pollinator planting tour on August 29th.
6. Cynthia met with Karla Miller, the new director of the NW MT Educational Coop, about outreach to teachers, CORE events and science curricula.
7. Valerie and Cynthia toured the Algae Aqua-Culture facility with Ronald Buentemeier, Holly McKenzie, and Angel Rosario. After the tour, Ron and Holly guided Valerie and Cynthia throughout the F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. forest lands, including the Haskill Basin and Trumbull Creek easements.

Cow Creek 319 Application

Cynthia, Valerie, and Samantha Tappenbeck worked collaboratively on the application, including drafting text and budget, communicating with DEQ, and conducting landowner and partner outreach. The application outlines two project areas on private property: one in the headwaters and one mid-stream (near the Muldown Elementary). Both projects involve enhancing the riparian area using fencing, livestock management, and establishment of woody vegetation. There are also significant educational components: students from Whitefish High School Project FREEFLOW will assist with project implementation and monitoring, and we will present to local homeowners’ associations. The application has broad support from partner organizations, including Whitefish Lake Institute, Whitefish High School, City of Whitefish, and FWP, as well as the two landowners.

Landowner Programs



The DNRC Conservation Nursery released their inventory for 2017-18 seedling orders. We have already received numerous inquiries (many people saw the ad in the Beacon), and two orders have been placed.

Education and Outreach

CORE – Cynthia has been editing the Flathead CORE website content and helping to plan an Educational Trunk Workshop on October 19th at Lone Pine State Park. FCD hosted the September 20th CORE meeting, which included Trunk Workshop planning, education program updates, and a presentation by Ryder Delaloye, Whitefish Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Rolling Rivers Trailer – Valerie updated the presentation report forms for the trailer to facilitate reporting to DNRC and MACD. Cynthia purchased a new tarp to extend the lifespan of the current cover.

Whitefish Lake Institute Education – Cynthia helped Lori lead educational tours for seniors at the Viking Creek Living Wetland Interpretive Nature Trail on September 5th and 6th.

Website/Facebook

Cynthia posted new blogs about the Flathead Valley Agricultural Forum, Flathead Lakers Native Plant Workshop and Tour, the CORE Educational Trunk Workshop and the Seedlings Program. The Facebook page is up and running, and we have 45 followers.

Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM reported:

319 application development for Cow Creek:

- Worked with Flathead CD staff and Whitefish Lake Institute to develop restoration plan for Cow Creek and conduct landowner outreach
- Application completed and submitted: 9/18/17
- Application review: 10/12/17
- Award notification: 10/27/17

Progress on Thompson River Basin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP):

- Draft of sections 1-7 available; need further input from stakeholders to finalize sections 6 and 7
- Stakeholder meeting: Thursday, 9/28/17 in Thompson Falls
- Progress report sent out to all survey respondents and interested stakeholders; update added to Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group website
<http://lowerclarkforkwatershedgroup.org/trwrp-august-23-update/>

Flathead River Commission:

- August and September meetings cancelled

Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):

- \$70K available for projects to support responsible grazing of the riparian zone: benefits to landowners, benefits to the river



- Funding is from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CWA section 319; Watershed Restoration Plan required
- Logistics on the producer side: 50% cost share, infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.; landowner agreements; certified grazing assistance plan developer services
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis, considered for next funding round in spring
- Contact me (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711)
- Opportunity for Flathead Conservation District to host workshop on riparian pastures

Conservation Menu (SWCDM) www.mtconservationmenu.org

- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- So far, over 70 programs in six categories:
 - Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds & Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Pollinators, Rangeland
- Consolidates diverse and numerous programs into one user-friendly format
- Program and organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search
- Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact me (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS): Angél Rosario submitted the following report:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

Continue to do field visits to follow-up and certify applied practices. Practices include pre-commercial thinning work and hoop house completions.

WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)

- Stream channel work at Lost Trail Refuge is completed (5.3 miles). Developed grass seeding plan for all disturbed areas. Seeding to be completed after October 15. All work should be completed by the end of October.
- Completed annual monitoring on five different WRP easements.

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Sent out letters to 12 contract holders asking for their written documentation before awarding the annual payments.

Other

- All area employees meeting through Thursday this week in Missoula
- Student Tim Dutton completed his training in August and is back to school in Bozeman.
- Participated of Program Advisory Committee meeting in Bozeman on finding better ways of delivering NRCS programs in MT.
- Had State Office personnel visiting to complete office operation appraisal.



- Personnel matters: Paul Klug from Forest Service stationed at Farm Service Office has retired. Lisa Coverdale, NRCS state conservationist will retire October 31.

MACD: No report.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the meeting included two zone change requests, which were sent to the county commissioners with positive recommendations.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported the meeting included rezoning requests, and that requests to rezone two subdivisions had expired.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: No report. The next meeting is 9/27.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION: No report. The next meeting is 9/27.

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN COMMISSION: No report.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL (CFBC): Verdell Jackson reported the CFBS received a \$10,000 grant, a coordinator has been appointed, the charter is in place, and Verdell participated in a planning committee meeting.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- Area V Meeting Travel
- Supervisor Workshops
- Supervisors Photo - Montana Association of Conservation District Employees Organization (MACDEO) event & Flathead CD website
- Staff/Supervisor Expenses (Outfitting)
- 310 Administrative Grants

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lori Curtis made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>10/10/2017</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title - Chair, etc.)

